

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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## DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

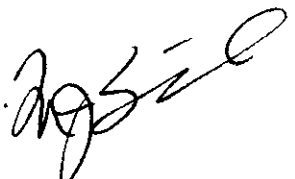
<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

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March 3, 2008

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.  
Director of Mental Health 

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO SOLE  
SOURCE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LOS ANGELES  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

This memo is to comply with the revised Board Policy 5.100, Sole Source Contract, by notifying the Board of our need to initiate a Sole Source contract. It is the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) intent to enter into new sole source contract negotiations with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) located at 333 Beaudry Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

The Probation Department, in collaboration with DMH, applied for and was awarded a Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Corrections Standards Authority for the Enhanced Camp and Transition Project (ECTP). For Fiscal Year 2007-2008 only, this grant will provide \$600,000 for the training of clinicians in Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS) and specifically references that youth enrolled in the CBITS program will be provided cognitive-behavioral intervention for trauma.

CBITS is an evidence-based early intervention program which aims to address the mental health needs of youth exposed to a variety of traumatic events. A disproportionately high number of youth in the Probation camps have been exposed to violence in their communities. The emotional impact of this exposure is profound and leads to behavioral problems and poor school performance which is interrelated to the youth's delinquency. CBITS, designed to address the needs to these youth, was initially developed by staff from LAUSD in partnership with RAND Health and UCLA Health Services Research Center.

Research has shown that the CBITS program significantly reduces symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder and depression. The CBITS program has received support from a number of organizations, including the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile

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Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), which rated CBITS as an exemplary model program. As the developer of CBITS, LAUSD is an expert in CBITS training and is experienced and is uniquely qualified to train staff in the delivery of the program. In addition, LAUSD has been successful in implementing this program with youth who come from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds such as the youth in the Probation camps.

Unless otherwise instructed by any Board office, DMH will proceed with negotiating the sole source contract within two weeks. DMH will work closely with both the Office of the County Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer in preparing a new Agreement with Los Angeles Unified School District.

MJS:ST:KS:aj

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel